



Office of Mayor Fletcher Berger

Greetings from the Mayor

As I enter my eighth year as Mayor of Bedford Heights, I want to express my appreciation and gratitude to our residents for allowing me to serve this community. It is truly an honor. We have accomplished much, but there is still work to be completed.

Almost everything in life begins from the ground up. This is why improving our community's infrastructure has been my primary focus. The revitalization of many of our major roadways and some of our most dangerous side streets are now complete. By improving our 50-year-old water and sewer systems within the city, and revitalizing our roadways, we can ensure infrastructural stability for years to come.

Like many of you, we have also been deeply concerned about what has been an unpredictable economy for a number of years. During my tenure, we have significantly reduced our payroll by more than \$1.5 million dollars, maintained a balanced budget year after year and engaged our neighbor communities to develop ways to reduce expenses. As of January 2015, we will have paid off the 1994 bond debt on the Bedford Heights Community Center.

We are currently working on several projects. However, our most significant is the newly commissioned (*January 2015*) Southeast Emergency Communications Center located in our City Hall. This has been a joint effort among the communities of Bedford Heights, Bedford, Garfield Heights and Maple Heights as the primary partners. Grants and financial commitments totaling more than \$3 million have made this project a reality. Its primary purpose is to improve emergency responsiveness and reduce costs. In the first few years of operation, we project savings into the hundreds of thousands of dollars between the four communities. We have also had dialogues with other communities who recognize the benefits of this venture.

In 2015, the Ohio Department of Transportation (*ODOT*) will begin the process of widening Interstate 271 in both directions between Miles Road and the Summit County line. Actual construction will begin in 2016 and last for two years. Interstate 271 will be widened from two to three lanes north and southbound. Noise barriers will be erected within our city's borders along Interstate 271.

We are making progress on the future of the former Bedford Heights Hotel site (*24801 Rockside Road*). We have engaged many interested parties who would like to invest in that location. I want to assure the residents of Bedford Heights that I will make every effort to ensure that a business with the potential for long-term stability ultimately ends up on that site.

Plans for 2015 include:

- Resurfacing of Richmond Road from Aurora Road to Columbus Road
- Resurfacing of Solon Road from the east city limits to the west city limits
- Northfield Road at Interstate 480 between Meuti Drive and Miles Road (*subject to State and County funding*)
- Redeveloping the current Municipal Park Playground area (*Funtown Playground*), which is located behind city hall, by building a freestanding pavilion.

Thank you for your continued support and do not hesitate to contact me.